

EXHIBIT 3

**UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
NORTHERN DISTRICT OF NEW YORK**

NEW HOPE FAMILY SERVICES, INC.,

Plaintiff,

5:18-CV-1419 (MAD/TWD)

vs.

SHEILA J. POOLE, in her official capacity
as Acting Commissioner for the Office of
Children and Family Services for the State
of New York,

**AFFIDAVIT OF CHARITY
LOSCOMBE IN SUPPORT OF
NEW HOPE FAMILY
SERVICES' MOTION FOR
PRELIMINARY INJUNCTION**

Defendant.

1. My name is Charity Loscombe.
2. I am above the age of 18, of sound mind, and I have personal knowledge of the facts explained in this document.
3. My husband, Todd, and I have four children of our own. We have also been a Tender Loving Care ("TLC") foster family through New Hope for a number of years.
4. For several years, I worked for New Hope as a birth mother case worker and as the TLC coordinator.
5. As a birth mother case worker, I was blessed to work closely with birth mothers. My desire was to walk through the difficult situations they faced with them and help them through the process of placing their child with an adopting family. I would meet regularly with each birth mom I worked with. Some of those meetings were scheduled, some were not. I made myself available to them as they needed me throughout their pregnancy. I would go with these moms to family meetings and later to court hearings. I would go to the hospital after the baby was

born and sometimes before or during labor. I would also talk with the moms regularly throughout the pregnancy. Sometimes I would even get calls in the middle of the night and I would comfort these moms.

6. I talked with these moms about a lot of things: their lives, their families, their plans for the future. We talked about the pregnancy, the adoption process, and how they were feeling about both. These moms often wanted to talk about God and about how they saw God in their lives and their babies' lives. We would talk about God's love for them and, when they wanted, I would pray with them. I always saw the great love of each birth mom in placing her baby in an adoptive home. I was always individually praying for the moms I worked with, and for their babies.

7. I would also talk regularly with the birth mom's family, especially the baby's grandparents and father, if he was present, to comfort and counsel them through the process.

8. The mothers I worked with would tell me that they came to New Hope because they wanted to work with a faith-based adoption agency. Most moms I worked with told me that they wanted to place their baby in a Christian home. Every mom I worked with wanted both a mom and a dad for their baby. At New Hope, I got to see that happen for the moms and babies I worked with.

9. After Todd and I married, we wanted to continue helping babies through New Hope. After our four kids were born, we decided to become a TLC family and foster. Todd's mom had provided TLC care while he was still living at

home so we were both very familiar with the program. We have fostered five babies so far and are still active with New Hope.

10. Each of the babies we fostered came to us when they were days old. We provided the initial care, took them to doctor's appointments, cared for them, prayed for them, and loved them until they could be placed with their adoptive family. The shortest we have fostered a baby was 4-5 weeks. The longest was four months, and most were close to that four months. We have fostered babies with special needs.

11. In some cases, we have been able to keep up with the babies we have fostered. We hear how they are doing and see how they grow. I love that.

12. To my knowledge, the TLC program is unique to New Hope. We have decided to foster babies because we believe in that unique program. If New Hope closes its doors, we would not continue fostering through any other agency or state program.

13. I have appreciated working with New Hope for so many years because I share their Christian beliefs about the value of human life and about the nature of the family. I hope they are able to continue the good work that they do for many years to come.

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I declare under penalty of perjury pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1746 that the foregoing is true and correct to the best of my knowledge.

Executed this 29 day of November, 2018, at Brewerton New York.


Charity Loscombe

STATE OF NEW YORK)
) ss.:
COUNTY OF Oranodoga)

On the 29th day of November, 2018, before me, the undersigned, a Notary Public in and for said state, personally appeared Charity Loscombe, personally known to me or proved to me on the basis of satisfactory evidence to be the person whose name is subscribed to the within instrument and acknowledged to me that he executed the same in his capacity, and that by his signature on the instrument, the person or the entity upon behalf of which the person acted, executed the instrument.


Notary Public

JENNY L. MAGILL
Notary Public - State Of New York
No. 01MAG200848
Qualified in Oswego County
My Commission Expires April 30, 21

EXHIBIT 4

**UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
NORTHERN DISTRICT OF NEW YORK**

NEW HOPE FAMILY SERVICES, INC.,

Plaintiff,

vs.

SHEILA J. POOLE, in her official capacity
as Acting Commissioner for the Office of
Children and Family Services for the State
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Defendant.

No.: 5:18-cv-1419 (MAD/TWD)

**AFFIDAVIT OF ELAINE
BLEUER IN SUPPORT OF
NEW HOPE FAMILY
SERVICES' MOTION FOR
PRELIMINARY INJUNCTION**

1. My name is Elaine Bleuer.
2. I am above the age of 18, of sound mind, and I have personal knowledge of the facts explained in this document.
3. I am the mother of three biological children and eleven adopted children.
4. We adopted two of our children through New Hope Family Services. We applied to adopt through New Hope because we heard that fewer families were willing to adopt babies across racial lines or babies who had come from difficult situations. We were. We adopted in the United States and internationally. We have children from Korea, Sierra Leone, Liberia, Guatemala, and the United States.
5. When we applied to New Hope, my husband and I did not think a birth mother would choose our family. We were older at the time and had many children. Amazingly, it was those two things that drew our birth mothers to us. One chose us because we had been married for so many years, and our age and length of marriage represented stability to her. The other wanted many siblings for her baby and chose us because we had so many kids.

6. Through our eleven adoptions, I worked with many secular agencies. The experience with New Hope was completely different. New Hope's faith impacted everything it did. The atmosphere was kind and loving. The staff members were professional in everything they did from the first meeting to the last hearing. I never worried about the handling of our finances or our confidentiality. And I knew that New Hope staff were doing everything they could to care for our adoptive son and daughter and their birth mothers.

7. I saw in our first meetings how special the pre-adoption classes were at New Hope compared to classes I attended at other agencies. Families come to adoption for many reasons and I saw New Hope staff minister to families during the process. Some of the adoptive families we met were dealing with the pain of infertility or miscarriage. Many of the birth moms were facing tough family situations. At every step, New Hope staff members were accessible. They were gentle and they were kind. Staff members recognized the loneliness that can come with adoption for the child, for the birth mother, and even for the adopting family. And they approached all of the struggles with genuine care inspired by their Christian faith.

8. My husband and I are both Christians and we loved the opportunity to talk about our Christian views on family and life with an agency that shared those beliefs. We were grateful to be able to pray with staff members and to know that they were regularly praying for us. Our shared religious beliefs bonded us together. And I was comforted to know that New Hope staff members were constantly praying over every adoption, that the right decision would be made for that child.

9. I never saw New Hope concerned about pushing an adoption through. What I saw was New Hope staff members caring deeply for the children and families who came to them, personally walking through struggles with them, and genuinely loving each baby, mother, and adoptive family. Those actions were inspired by New Hope's religious beliefs. I saw that in our two adoptions, and again more recently, when my son Justin and his wife Annie adopted their baby girl through New Hope. New Hope staff still ask me about our adopted children even though my daughter is now 24 and my son 20.

10. New Hope's faith-based approach to adoption is why I have continued to stay in touch with staff there, and it is why my husband and I continue to support New Hope through regular donations. We believe in the good work New Hope is doing and we want to support it. Unfortunately, if New Hope were forced to change its religious beliefs about family, we would no longer be able to donate to New Hope. Such a compromising of their Christian beliefs would mean a significant change in New Hope's identity—in what makes it different from the other New York adoption agencies. We would move our donations to another organization.

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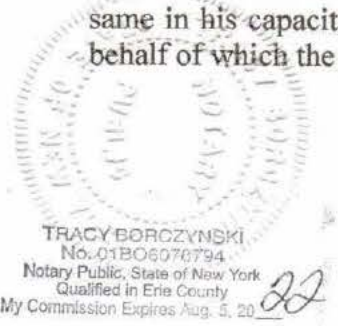
I declare under penalty of perjury pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1746 that the foregoing is true and correct to the best of my knowledge.

Executed this 7 day of December, 2018, at Williamsville New York.

Elaine Bleuer
Elaine Bleuer

STATE OF NEW YORK)
COUNTY OF ERIE) ss.:

On the 7th day of December, 2018, before me, the undersigned, a Notary Public in and for said state, personally appeared Elaine J. Bleuer, personally known to me or proved to me on the basis of satisfactory evidence to be the person whose name is subscribed to the within instrument and acknowledged to me that he executed the same in his capacity, and that by his signature on the instrument, the person or the entity upon behalf of which the person acted, executed the instrument.



[Signature]
Notary Public